

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 21st April 2023.

by Ray French

Bewl continued this week in the same vein as the previous with the weekend providing excellent sport to a full complement of boat anglers and good numbers from the banks. Again, there were plenty of fighting Rainbows to 2lb+ bending rods for both the Any Method and Fly rods with many coming back for a second ticket. Such is the popularity of Bewl this season that there were a further 28 boats out on Monday!!

Sport continued on a high until the wind turned Easterly, the temperature dropped, and the rains came. As a result, the fish over the last couple of days have not really wanted to play and apart from a few exceptions rods have found it difficult. The biggest problem has been the wind. It has been a cold one which is not good at Bewl. However, today it dropped to nothing and went flat calm in an attempt to change direction.

FISHING

There have been a couple of major changes since last week's report in that the Trout have begun to move off the banks with many more being seen and caught in open water. The other big change is that the fish have come right up, especially on the warmer days and during a hatch. In fact even today when the rain stopped there was a big hatch of small black Buzzers, we noticed them in Chingley Corner, Ferry Point and Hook Straight. On the jetty I talked to a guy who fished Hook Straight on the fly and had 6 fish high in the water on floating line. He noticed a pod of Trout moving in the flat calm and got amongst them! He was pulling mostly with a mixture of Blob and Booby, they scattered but he did manage to mop them up. A short-lived bonanza but when there is a hatch it is often short-lived and very much a question of right place right time.

There is no doubt that after catching a lot of fish on the DI5 over the last few weeks we got caught out today and struggled for our fish by going too deep and fishing too slow. Fair enough, it's back to summer tackle from now on for me. That means washing line with Booby and Wets, Buzzers, Nymphs and Blobs, and normally no more than a Fast Glass intermediate is necessary. That statement might be a little premature if it remains cold and miserable, but a hatch showed today and that should be enough for the Trout to stay up in anticipation. Certainly by May they should be!!!

LOCATION

Now that the fish are beginning to move up in the water, they should be a bit more obvious especially in the cloud on a warm day they will be up and looking. Bewl is not generally noted for its Buzzer fishing these days but after today I am encouraged by the amount on show so for the Fly rods it is definitely worth a go either on the 'Washing Line' Bung or straight Nymphing.

All the major areas now have fish albeit they are not shoaled up as much as they were and may well need a bit of searching for especially with the amount of water in Bewl now.... it is a big reservoir! Bewl Straight, the Dam, the Bowl, Rosemary Lane and Hook Straight are the major areas but don't forget the Bays and Creeks and Copen's Reach, the big area of water leading to the Nature Reserve especially on the Ferry Point side.

For bank anglers, there are still fish close in and will be for another month at least and as the wind warms, concentrate on where the wind is blowing into because that is where the food ends up. Of course, these are also areas that are major targets for the boats.

I think most people found it hard today in the rain and flat calm but then as we came off the water the sun was out and a gentle ripple promised a better weekend. That is what we need now, some nice warm Spring weather to set the mood and switch the fish back on. Hopefully we will get that soon.

Have a good week and tight lines.

Ray French